



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Robert Ryman

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Robert Ryman
Date:	1972 October 13-November 7
Identifier:	AAA.ryman72
Creator:	Ryman, Robert, 1930-2019 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	31 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Robert Ryman, 1972 October 13-November 7, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Robert Ryman, 1972 October 13-November 7, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and others.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3949 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Restrictions

This transcript is open for research. Access to the entire audio recording is restricted. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Ryman (1930-2019) was a painter from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Robert Ryman conducted 1972 October 13-November 7, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Ryman speaks of his early career as a Jazz musician and transition to painting in the early 1950's, after moving to New York City. He recalls working as a guard for the Museum of Modern Art and as a page for the New York Public Library, where he encountered such artists and curators as Dan Flavin, Sol Lewitt, and Betsy Jones. Ryman elaborates on his development as a painter; experimentation with lithograph printmaking; his work methods; group shows at the Tenth Street Galleries; solo shows in Europe and New York, including The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; his marriage to art critic Lucy Lippard.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 8 min.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews
Prints -- Technique

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Flavin, Dan, 1933-
LeWitt, Sol, 1928-2007
Lippard, Lucy R.
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.) -- Employees
New York Public Library -- Employees

Occupations:

Musicians -- United States